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**(HB5397), An Act Declaring Gun Violence a Public Health Crisis and Establishing the Office of Gun Violence Prevention and Advisory Council on Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention.**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

Public Health Committee  
March 22, 2022

Senators Daugherty, Hwang, Somers, Representatives Steinberg, Petit, and Members of the Committee:

I am a resident of Ridgefield and have practiced law in Danbury since 1983. I am frequently appointed by the Court to represent child victims of violence.

100% of child firearms deaths and injuries are preventable. The overwhelming majority of all other civilian firearms deaths and injuries are preventable.

According to the CDC's statistics, more than 100 people, on average, are killed by firearms every day in the U.S. In Connecticut, we lose someone to firearms violence every three days on average.

The number of firearms injuries is less certain because so little research has been funded over previous decades.

Even less research has been funded to establish effective prevention programs. It is well past time to focus on prevention.

I urge you to support HB 5397.

Respectfully submitted,

